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SCIENCE & MEDICINE to the

MEDICAL SERVICES INQUIRY

by the

ONTARIO FARMERS' UNION

↑
LOCAL 220 TIMMINS

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

THE ONTARIO FARMERS' UNION LOCAL 220 TIMMINS WELCOMES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS TO THE MEDICAL SERVICES INQUIRY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO. THIS IS AN ORGANIZATION OF FARMERS, CREATED BY FARMERS FOR FARMERS. IT IS NON-PARTISAN IN POLITICS AND NON-SECTARIAN. IT OPERATES DIRECTLY FROM GRASS-ROOTS, PUTTING THE FARMER MEMBER IN FULL CONTROL TO ACT UPON PROBLEMS OF TODAY.

(1) PROCEEDING ON THE PREMISE THAT GOOD HEALTH IS THE RIGHT OF EVERYONE. IT IS OUR OPINION THAT A PROVINCIAL MEDICAL PLAN SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. WE FEEL THAT IT SHOULD BE A PUBLIC SERVICE, THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE OPERATED BY OR CONNECTED WITH ANY PRIVATE INSURANCE PLAN.

(2) WE FEEL THAT THE PLAN MUST BE SO CONSTITUTED AS TO GIVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE COVERAGE TO ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF INCOME OR ABILITY TO PAY. AND THAT THE PLAN MUST BE FINANCED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL BE WITHIN REACH OF ALL PEOPLE AND THAT PROVISION MUST BE MADE TO INCLUDE INDIGENTS AND ALL OTHERS WHO FOR ANY REASON MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO PAY PREMIUMS.

(3) THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF SERVICES MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE. IT IS ALONG THE ABOVE MENTIONED OUTLINES THAT THE PLAN MUST BE ESTABLISHED. WE SHALL NOW ATTEMPT TO ELABORATE FURTHER ON EACH OF THE FOREGOING ITEMS. ON THE FIRST ASSERTION CONCERNING PRIVATE PLANS, VERSUS A PUBLIC PLAN, WE SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A PUBLIC PLAN FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS.

(1) ANY PRIVATE PLANS THAT WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF COULD NOT SUFFICE THE NEED IN THIS MATTER, DUE THE MANY LIMITATIONS EXISTING WITHIN THEM. WE

REFER HERE TO THE FACT THAT THERE IS OFTEN A TIME LIMIT ON COVERAGE, AND THAT THESE PLANS DO NOT COVER COSTS OF MANY DRUGS. PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESSES WHO ARE MOST IN NEED OF CARE, DO NOT QUALIFY FOR PARTICIPATION. THE HIGH COSTS OF ADMINISTERING A MULTIPLICITY OF PLANS CAUSES THE PREMIUMS TO BE BEYOND THE REACH OF MANY PEOPLE. ANOTHER GREAT DISADVANTAGE IS THE FACT THAT AS CHILDREN REACH CERTAIN AGE LIMITS THEY ARE CUT OFF FROM SERVICE OR EXTRA PREMIUMS ARE CHARGED EVEN THOUGH THESE CHILDREN MAY STILL BE ATTENDING SCHOOL.


WE FEEL FURTHER THAT NO SPECIAL GROUP SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OF THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE. THAT IS WHY THE PLAN MUST NOT BE CONTROLLED SOLELY BY OR IN THE INTERESTS OF DOCTORS OR PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANIES. SINCE IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO PAY, THEY SHOULD HAVE THE CONTROL. THERE SHOULD HOWEVER BE AN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REPRESENT THE DOCTORS AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE. WE FEEL THAT ONLY A PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN CAN BE SET UP IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PROVIDE FOR ALL THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND OVERCOME ALL THESE EXISTING DRAWBACKS.

ON ITEM TWO, WHICH CONCERNS THE SCOPE AND FINANCING OF THE PLAN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE PLAN SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT REGARD OF ABILITY TO PAY. NO PERSON SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO A MEANS TEST, NO PERSON SHOULD BE EXCLUDED.

DUE TO OUR LIMITED MEANS OF RESEARCH WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DELVE TOO DEEPLY INTO THE METHODS OF FINANCING. WE HAVE HOWEVER STUDIED PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND WE FEEL THAT THEIR CONCLUSIONS IN THIS REGARD SEEM TO US REASONABLE AND ACCEPTABLE.

WE REFER HERE TO THE FOLLOWING FINANCING SCHEME.

- (1) A PREMIUM OF THIRTY CENTS (30) PER WEEK FOR A SINGLE PERSON--
SIXTY CENTS (60) A WEEK FOR A FAMILY REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF
DEPENDENTS.



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(2) 3% CORPORATION TAX

(3) 6% LEVY ON THE PRESENT FEDERAL TAX PAYMENT (PERSONAL INCOME TAX)

ITEM THREE, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL BECAUSE IT DEALS WITH THE WHOLE PURPOSE BEHIND THE PROPOSED PLAN, CONCERNS THE TYPE OF SERVICES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE UNDER THE PLAN. WE FEEL THAT THE PLAN MUST INCLUDE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, FULL MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND DENTAL FACILITIES, SPECIALISTS WHEN NECESSARY, NURSES AND SPECIAL TREATMENT, COMPLETE SERVICES FOR REHABILITATION, DRUGS, PREGNANCY AND CONFINEMENT, X-RAYS AND BLOOD TESTS FOR IN OR OUT PATIENTS, NON COMPENSIBLE ACCIDENTS, OPTICAL SERVICES, GLASSES MUST ALSO BE COVERED BY THE PLAN. ALL OTHER DEVICES CONCERNED WITH PHYSICAL WELL-BEING, SUCH AS HEARING AIDS AND AIDS TO CORRECTION OF DEFORMITIES, AND RECOVERY FROM ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT MUST BE INCLUDED. ALSO INCLUDED MUST BE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE RESEARCH FACILITIES FOR PROBING INTO THE NATURE OF ALL DISEASES; AND PRODUCTION OF DRUGS.

IN CONCLUSION MR. CHAIRMAN, WE WOULD COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO FOR MAKING THIS INVESTIGATION POSSIBLE, AS IT INDICATES AN AWARENESS THAT A PROBLEM DOES EXIST, FOR WHICH A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND. WE FEEL CONFIDENT YOUR COMMITTEE WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT WILL BENEFIT THE HEALTH OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE ONTARIO FARMERS' UNION LOCAL 220 TIMMINS.

